

REMARKS

Typographical errors on Pages 4 and 5 of the description have been corrected so that the introductory text is consistent with the embodiments detailed in the remainder of the description, as well as the claims. Applicant submits that the typographical errors may have been caused by confusion over numbering of the input/output ports. In the introductory text the port designated the "second port" initially represented a port opposite the "first" port, whereas in the remainder of the description the "second" port actually indicates the port, which is located adjacent the "first" port.

Turning now to the Office Action, all pending claims 1-19 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

After clarifying pages 4 and 5 of the description, Applicant would like to draw the Examiner's attention to pages 7, 8 and 9 of the description, which contains a clear description of the routing means in accordance with claims 1 and 14 of the present application.

[0039] FIG. 5 illustrates one embodiment of a wavelength interleaving cross-connect having multiple half wave plates and two birefringent elements. The elements of FIG. 5, with the exception of I/O ports 310, 320, 330 and 340, represent one embodiment of wavelength interleaving cross connect 300.

[0040] In general, odd channels ("first subset") received via port 310 ("first

port") are directed to port 330 ("third port"), and even channels ("second subset") received via port 310 ("first port") are directed to port 340 ("fourth port"). Odd channels ("first subset") received via port 320 ("second port") are directed to port 340 ("fourth port"), and even channels ("second subset") received via port 320 ("second port") are directed to port 330 ("third port"). In one embodiment, to operate as described above with respect to FIGS. 3 and 4 odd channels are input to port 310 and even channels are input to port 320. In an alternate embodiment, even channels are input to port 310 and odd channels are input to port 320.

Accordingly, the description provides a clear example of a routing means that directs channels of a first subset of optical frequencies (odd) between a first port and a third port and between a second port and a fourth port, and that directs channels of a second subset of optical frequencies (even) between a first port and a fourth port and between a second port and a third port.

A holding to this effect and the allowance of this application followed by its passage to issuance is respectfully solicited.

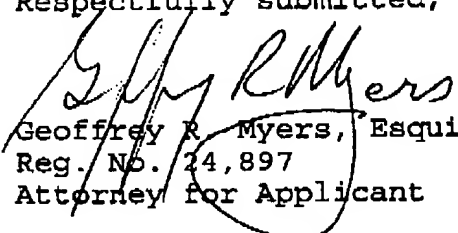
If, however, any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned counsel so that a brief interview can be arranged to resolve these issues.

It is believed no fee is due at this time. If that determination should be incorrect, then please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0644 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

2/22/05


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